

Special Action Plan for Health

286. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Action Plan for health envisages improvement of health services to meet the increasing health care needs of the population;

(b) if so, the details of health care needs identified by Government; and

(c) how the Special Action Plan proposes to meet these needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Although the Special Action Plan for health envisages expansion and improvement of the health services to meet the increasing health care needs of the population, no specific targets have been set.

Keeping in view the Plan priorities, efforts have been further intensified to improve the health status of the population by optimising coverage and improving the health services through establishment of a comprehensive network of rural health infrastructure comprising 137271 sub-centres, 22975 primary health centres and 2935 community health centres as on 30.06.1999, in order to provide preventive, promotive and curative health care. To fill the critical gaps in provision of health services, Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for the health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting various programmes for control of diseases like malaria, leprosy, TB, blindness, AIDS. Secondary level health facilities are also upgraded in selected States with World Bank assistance.